

**CH-764**

**Alfred and Daisy Willett House**

**Marbury**

**Private**

**Circa 1910**

Erected circa 1910, the Alfred and Daisy Willett House is a two-story vernacular Victorian dwelling located in the village of Marbury and standing on a 2.5 acre lot on the northwest side of Bicknell Road. Overall, the dwelling is simply executed, and somewhat altered from its original appearance by a 1970's renovation. It includes an irregular roofline, front-facing gable, extended bays, and prominent front porch, all characteristic of its style. The site also has a notable early 20th century small icebox raised on stilts as well as a non-contributing wood frame shed/garage. Despite alterations, the Willett House is one of a handful of notable structures in the village of Marbury. It was erected on 53 acres purchased that year by Alfred Willett from Thomas and Edith Warren.

Inventory No. CH-764

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic Alfred and Daisy Willett House

other

## 2. Location

street and number	4905 Bicknell Road	not for publication
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city, town	Marbury	vicinity
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county Charles

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Harry C. Groves
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street and number      P.O. Box 333      telephone      301-753-6640

city, town	Marbury	state	MD	zip code	20658
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#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 20 p.245

city, town	La Plata	liber	24	folio	60
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## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

## 6. Classification

## Category

_____	district
<u>  X  </u>	building
_____	structu
_____	site
_____	object

## Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

### Current Function

<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<u>1</u>	_____ structures
<u>2</u>	_____ objects
	_____ Total

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-764

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Erected circa 1910, the Alfred and Daisy Willett House is a two-story vernacular Victorian dwelling located in the village of Marbury and standing on a 2.5 acre lot on the northwest side of Bicknell Road. Overall, the dwelling is simply executed, and somewhat altered from its original appearance by a 1970's renovation. It includes an irregular roofline, front-facing gable, extended bays, and prominent front porch, all characteristic of its style. The site also has a notable early 20th century small icebox raised on stilts as well as a non-contributing wood frame shed/garage.

Before alterations, the dwelling mirrored the nearby Hetty and Tom Wright House (CH-763). It has a wood frame covered with vinyl siding, asphalt shingle roof, and a brick pier foundation infilled with poured concrete. Windows consist primarily of original 2/2 wood sash throughout. A single brick chimney pierces the roof. The front elevation, facing south is dominated by an altered hipped roof wrap-around porch supported on brick columns that replaced the original turned wood posts in the 1970's. The second story includes a paired window below a 4-light compass window adorning the front gable. A single 1/1 window provides light into a bathroom that was installed after the home's original construction. A circa 1970 sliding glass door now replaces original fenestration on the first floor.

Moving counterclockwise, the east elevation includes a single second-story 1/1 window. The rear wing extending northward includes a single 2/2 window on the first and second story. The gable end north wall is without fenestration. The rear elevation includes a shed-roof one-story addition. The second story has two 2/2 windows. The first floor has two windows flanking either side of the shed addition which features a rear entrance on the north elevation and a 6/6 window at the rear. The west gable elevation is the second most prominent elevation including an extended first floor bay with hipped roof below a pair of 2/2 windows below a 4-light compass window. The eave elevation includes a single 2/2 first and second story window.

The dwelling has an overall side-passage plan with a stair on the east wall leading to the second story. The interior is noteworthy for several well-preserved elements including original unpainted woodwork and original kitchen cabinets, sink, trim and base molding. The first floor plan has been altered by the removal of the partition wall separating the original parlor and dining room.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-764

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1912 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1912

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Erected circa 1912, the Alfred and Daisy Willett House, despite alterations is one of a handful of notable structures in the village of Marbury. It was erected on 53 acres purchased that year by Alfred Willett from Thomas and Edith Warren. (1)

The single most important and long-lasting industry established in Charles County during this period was the naval ordnance manufacturing plant built at Mattawoman Neck in 1890. The Naval Proving Ground was moved to Mattawoman Neck when transportation from the former Proving Ground at Annapolis to the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC became too dangerous. Nearly nine hundred acres of land was purchased for the proving ground, and later supplemented by an additional ten thousand acres on Stump Neck. In 1898, the Naval Powder Factory was constructed, and the first powder was manufactured in 1900. During World War I, transportation to and from the factory was improved by the construction of a railroad spur from White Plains in 1917.

Although the Proving Ground was moved to Dahlgren, Virginia in 1921, the plant continued to operate and began tests that would lead to the development of jet propulsion and rocket testing at the naval station. From the beginning, the plant and proving ground provided an important and stable center of employment for the county. During the war years, the plant expanded, requiring more laborers. The town of Indian Head grew up just opposite the gates of the installation. The Navy contributed to the housing and education of its employees and their children by building housing and a school at Indian Head.

The village of Marbury is situated on high ground on the former plantation of the Marbury family. During the early 20th century, Marbury included a post office and barber shop as well as Twiford's Store and Lumber Yard. Most of the town residents were in some way dependent on Indian Head for their livelihood. Marbury was connected to the proving ground at first by a locally built narrow footbridge and after 1917 by a unique hand drawn footbridge that allowed coal barges to proceed upstream in Mattawoman Creek. Congressman Sydney Mudd was the driving force behind the federally funded footbridge construction stating that, "The purposes of this bridge is to afford direct and convenient communication to the government employees, for nearly 50% of them have homes on the Marbury side of the creek." Further evidence of the impact on the proving ground to the adjoining region can be found in census records from 1890-1920 which reflect that the election district of Pomonkey, including Indian Head and Marbury, was the only area of growth in Charles County during the period. Between 1910 and 1920 the population nearly doubled from 1589 to 3,124. In 1920, a new census district was established in Marbury having a population of 1,392. (2)

### Endnotes

(1) Charles County Land Records Liber 24, Folio 61.

(2) Carlisle, Rodney P. Powder and Propellants : Energetic Materials at Indian Head, Maryland, 1890-1990. Washington, D.C. : U.S. Navy, 1990

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-764

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2.5

Acreage of historical setting 53 acres

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

the property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 20, Parcel 245

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planning

date 3/5/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-764

Section 8 Page 1

Alfred and Daisy Willett House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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**Chain of Title:**

1912      Thomas E. Warren and Edith Warren, his wife to Alfred Willett, his heirs and assigns, in fee-simple all those two contiguous lots, tracts, pieces or parcels of land. 53 acres. Buildings and improvements thereupon erected, and or being erected.

**24/61**









CH-764  
Alfred and Daisy Willet House  
Charles CO, MD  
C. Hardy  
8102

MD SHPO

FRONT ELEVATION, LOOKING N

1 OF 8



CH-764  
Alfred and Daisy Willet House  
Charles Co, MD  
C. Herdy  
8102  
MD SHPO  
looking N  
2 of 8



CH-764

Alfred and Daisy Willet House

Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

8102

MD SHPO

REAR ELEVATION

30F8





CH-764

Alfred and Daisy Willet House

Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

8/02

MD SHPO

LOOKING E

4 of 8



CH-764  
Alfred and Daisy Willet House  
Charles Co, MD  
C. Herdy  
8102  
MD SAPO  
ICE BOX  
50F8





CH-764

Alfred and Daisy Willet House

Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

8/02

MD SADO  
KITCHEN

60F8



CH-764  
Alfred and Daisy Willet House  
Charles Co, MD  
Co Hardy  
8102 MD SARP6  
KITCHEN  
70F8



QH-764

Alfred and Daisy Willet House  
Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

8102 MD 54P6

UPSTAIRS HALL

8048